



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

You must be wondering why we have a second March issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* in one month – we are getting back on track to monthly publication, and there is just so much good news from around OJJ's world to share with everyone.

Spring is finally here and with it comes the usual good news/bad news scenarios. The good news is that the azaleas are in full bloom everywhere and lots of other signs of spring are popping up. Pollen, cool mornings with lots of birdsong, warm days perfect for porch or patio sitting, pollen, putting our heavy coats away for a while, spring gardens waking up, pollen...

Let's enjoy spring while we can. Summer is not far behind with its heat and humidity. And hurricanes.

The not-so-fun news is that we have just been through the first call of the annual budget dance. Now I am catching up on other matters. Reading *The Inside Scoop* is a great tonic – it lifts my spirits to see all the great work going on in every office and facility. I am so proud to be a part of this agency and I am proud of every member of our staff. As you will see in various places throughout this issue – **YOU ROCK!**

“Doc”

Dr. Mary L. Livers

The Daily Motivator

The Power of Giving

Giving is powerful. Many people will attempt to prevent you from taking, yet no one can stop you from giving as much as you wish.

Give, and you increase the value that flows through your life. Give of yourself, and you make yourself stronger.

Every time you interact with someone else, you have the opportunity to give that person some kind of value. Whether it is a thing, or a thought, a gesture or a kind word, the most powerful gifts are those that come straight from the heart.

Many will appreciate your gifts and some will not, but that is not the point. For it is the sincere act of giving, not how the gift is received, that brings value and goodness to your world.

As you give more and more, you have more to give. As the joy of giving flows out from you, new richness fills your life.

Each moment is an opportunity to engage the beautiful, loving power of giving. Give your best and you'll get even better.

-- Ralph Marston

A friend is someone we turn to when our spirits need a lift.



Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



**Nelda
Graham,
Social Services
Counselor 4,
Natchitoches Regional Office**

Nelda Graham, Social Services Counselor 4, is a born social worker. No matter where she has hung her professional hat, she comes back to working with kids. When you feel that your work is a ministry, as Nelda does, going to work every day is a joy.

A member of the OJJ family since July 2006, she has served the state of Louisiana for many years, with the majority of her time spent at Central Louisiana State Hospital in Pineville, where she was a clinical social worker providing adult in-patient care. Nelda says much has changed over the years as mental health hospitals now provide improved care and modern medications.

Having worked with both adults and children, Nelda feels that working with kids is a calling. "I have a special interest in working with kids," Nelda said. "You have more success with kids, because they are more adaptable to change than adults. Children seem to be intuitive. Adults are more likely to re-offend than their juvenile counterparts."

Nelda said she has had the advantage of working in a number of venues and small communities, and worked with people from different cultures. "Sometimes those different cultures are within the neighborhood," she noted. "My passion is for working with people in rural areas. I love that. People tell me I am analytical, but I am thinking of how I am going to establish rapport with people. Some families are really tough to work with, however I believe in the holistic approach and starting where the client is. There has not been one family that I've worked with that

has not opened their home to me. When I gain people's trust, it's really God, the Spirit working through my voice. Some people are really tough, but I believe there is hope for everyone. **Everyone.**"

"Natchitoches OJJ staff selected Nelda Graham for the Inside Scoop Spotlight because of her knowledge and professionalism in her field and in our office," said **Regional Manager Randall Hill**. "She is a true asset to Natchitoches OJJ. She has utilized her talents in the entire northern region of Louisiana and she is the only Social Services Counselor in the northern region. Nelda continues her Social Services training by attending workshops, and in her efforts to include other departments and agencies, she hosted a Social Services training at Natchitoches OJJ last week. She is a team player and is readily available to meet the needs of our office, our clients and the community."

Nelda is a Natchitoches native and a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School. She chuckled as she remembers that her parents threatened their large brood with a particular punishment if the kids misbehaved: they would be sent to reform school in Scotlandville. Forward to her college years, and a professor who told his students about working at that same institution.

Nelda attended Northwestern State University, located in her hometown. "When I was in school in the early 1970s, women were just going into the workforce in large numbers," Nelda remembers. "Women were expected to be teachers or nurses. And that's what my mother expected of me. But I took a sociology class, and the professor talked to us about his work at LTI - Scotlandville - today's Jetson. He had long hair, wore jeans and rode a motorcycle! But what he said really touched me and I knew that was what I wanted to do. The professor used words that I was interested in and we could speak freely about issues in his class. That was how I ended up with my major. My parents did not

know that I was actually majoring in social work!"

While attending school at NSU, Nelda worked as a house parent at a group home. "I thought that was what I wanted to do - it was the closest I could get to LTI, since that was in Baton Rouge," she said. While in school, she had married and had a son, so moving away was not an option. She later went to work in a hospital and her mother thought that at last she would be a nurse. No such luck. Later, while pursuing her Masters in Social Work at Grambling, Nelda taught school for several years, at the NSU Lab School. But social work is her passion. "I've done just about everything in the social work field except work with food stamps. I am supposed to work with kids."

"I love what I do, and the kids I serve," Nelda said. "I always say that if I can help somebody as I pass this way, then my life will not be in vain. If I can help somebody, not just the children, there is the purpose. There is so much chaos and sadness in the world today. You never know what you may say to someone that will help to improve their life, or help them have a better day."

"You always smile when you work with kids," Nelda said. "I tell them to be happy that God has granted us another day. Every day is important."

Nelda serves the northern region of the state, providing individual counseling for youth and families. She visits group homes, secure care facilities, detention centers and private homes. She provides parent training, family counseling, crisis intervention, and she participates in staffings along with Probation and Parole Officers when youth are having problems. She assists in monitoring facilities to ensure that quality performance in evidence-based practices and services are delivered to our youth and their families. She serves on regional boards and oversees special projects with other agencies in the northern region. Nelda says she travels a lot, but despite the long days, she really enjoys her

work. "Every day is different; you don't know what your day is going to be like."

"I really enjoy working with kids, it's very challenging," she says. "My work is like a ministry and sometimes I feel like I'm on a journey like a missionary. Providing direct care and counseling services is so rewarding. There is more success in working with children and adolescents. Kids really do have a better chance for change – we have more success with that population."

"I provide services to youth who are returning home from secure facilities," Nelda continued. "They need job placement, or job training and skills. I help coordinate services and activities to help with their return to the community. Some of the kids have been in custody for so long, they have no life skills and their family situation has changed. Often the families need services to help prepare them for when their child comes out of custody."

"Things happen to families when their children are institutionalized," Nelda continued. "The kids are staffed and if we identify a need, we will prepare the family for re-integration. Initially parents are happy to have their kids back at home, but it does take time to re-unite the family. Things change when someone is gone for a while. Sometimes there is another child in the family, maybe with a significant age difference. Sometimes there is a new significant other. That often happens with secure care kids. I sometimes wonder if some of these kids are really going to make it. Changes keep on happening and most of them do well. It's so rewarding to see the kids succeed."

"I love children and find that they really motivate me," Nelda said. "I truly believe that 'it takes a village to raise a child.' I like working with the elderly as well – kids and older people say what they feel and get away with it – they do not have to worry about impressing anyone! With children, you are going to get to the truth. It may take some

time, but kids are going to tell you what is going on, they are not going to hold it in. When you establish rapport with kids you often get more than what you want to hear."

"I love the hospitality of people in this town," Nelda said, adding that she loves the Natchitoches area. "You know that people here are very friendly and they love to feed you."

Nelda has one son, Brandon, 25, who is developmentally disabled and lives at home. "I am very proud of Brandon," Nelda said, "He is pretty independent."

Nelda was widowed very early and remained single for many years, thinking she would never re-marry. However, a mutual friend introduced her to Welkin Smith, a widowed Baptist minister. They married in 2007. "Welkin helps me to grow and understand things in life," Nelda said. "We are still growing spiritually." Welkin's ministry is a calling, Nelda said, and he currently is a security guard at the chapel at Winn Correctional Center, where he assists the chaplain. Coincidentally, Nelda once worked at Winn Correctional many years ago.

Very family oriented, Nelda said she loves to cook for family holiday gatherings. Spending time with her family is very important. One of her joys is getting up early in the morning and sitting on her porch with a cup of tea, smelling the fresh air. She also loves to travel – throughout the United States. She went abroad once, to the Bahamas, and said she is now content traveling closer to home.

Nelda is active in her church and is a member of the church auxiliary, where she helps with fundraising for youth programs and serves as a Eucharistic minister, bringing Communion to the elderly and shut-ins.

Nelda Graham personifies the OJJ mission. With her servant leader's heart, she lives both her professional and personal life in service to others, helping to make their lives better.

Transitions

Comings and Goings.....

New Faces

Baton Rouge

Shalanda Wells – Adm. Coordinator 3

Central Office

Connie Percell - Undersecretary

Karen Stubbs - Deputy Asst. Secretary

Bridge City Center for Youth

Alicia Aguillard – JJS 1

Cherise Collins – JJS 1

Leslie Falkins – JJS 1

Mia Ford – Social Worker 1

Christopher Jackson – JJS 1

Renoda Jones – JJS 1

Keisha Ledet – JJS 1

Robert Lee - JJS 3

Christopher Mayes - Instructor

Lloyd Morgan – JJS 1

Keisha Myers – JJS 1

Gabriel Perkins – JJS 1

Dionne Richardson – JJS 1

Willie Smith – JJS 2

Michael Thompson – JJS 1

Hammond

Johnathan Varnado – PPO 1

Todd Vicknair – Field Agent

Jetson Center for Youth

Eric Blackmon – JJS 1

Kim Graves – JJS 1

Joshua Marquis – JJS 1

Joseph Robins – JJS 1

Jacobie Sanders – JJS 1

Cynthia Scott – JJS 2

Richard Smith – JJS 2

Shantel Tippet – JJS 2

Lafayette

Stephanie Barnard – Lafayette – Field Agent

Jamie Wallace – PPO 1

Swanson Center for Youth

Brittany Augurson – JJS 1

Thaddeus Brown – JJS 1

John Hamblin – JJS 2

Karen Ludley – JJS 1

Timothy Miller – JJS 1

Christina Simpson – JJS 1

Whitney Weddington – JJS 1

Julie Zeno – JJS 1

Promotions

Bridge City Center for Youth

Udina Cook – JJS 3

Swanson Center for Youth

Dornesia Harris – JJS 4

Kevin Jackson – JJS

Retirements

Baton Rouge

Gail Miller – Administrative Coordinator 3,
21 years of service

Swanson

Lynn Foster – JJS 4, 14 years of service

Carey Brownfield – JJS 3, 20 years of
service

Julie Hegwood – Executive Staff Officer,
29 years of service



A friend is someone we
treasure for our friendship is a gift.

CQIS Policy Updates

- A.1.1 Policy and Correspondence Distribution 2/11/11
- A.1.3 Organizational Structure 1/20/11
- A.1.4 Investigative Services 3/16/11
- A.1.9 Public Records Management 1/24/11
- A.2.2 Pay Administration Management 3/3/11
- A.2.15 Dress Code – Facility and Community Services 2/4/11
- A.2.23 Position Descriptions 1/26/11
- A.2.28 Return to Work 3/3/11
- A.2.30 Mail Precautions 1/26/11
- A.2.47 Equal Employment Opportunity 2/23/11
- A.2.48 Driver Safety Program 1/24/11
- A.2.62 Staff/Youth Relationships 3/2/11
- A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies and Equipment 1/20/11
- A.3.12 Issuance of Clothing Inventory 1/21/11
- A.5.9 Social Networking 1/20/11
- A.6.3 Facility Meals 1/25/11
- B.3.1 Composition/Location/Retention of Active and Inactive Secure Care Youth Records 2/14/11
- B.8.8 Americans with Disabilities Act (Youth) 2/14/11
- C.1.9 EPA Worker Protection Standard 1/10/11
- C.2.11 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 3/11/11
- C.2.13 Key Control Program 3/2/11
- C.2.14 Tool Control Program 3/11/11
- C.4.6 Securing Physical Evidence 1/14/11
- C.4.7 Escorted Absence 1/10/11
- D.10.4 Community Supervision Classification System 3/18/11
- D.10.32 SAVRY Assessment – Community Based Services 2/7/11

Rescinded:

- A.2.62 Staff/Youth Relationships 3/18/11
- A.6.4 Privately Owned Livestock 1/28/11

PbS Data Collection Begins

PbS Schedule

April 1 - 30: Data collection period

May 9 – 20: Draft period - A two week draft period is utilized to review the preliminary report and to make revisions as needed.

May 24: Final Report - A report, including graphs, is generated by the CJCA/PbS staff and is accessible on their website.

PbS State Coordinator Katie K. Justice reminds us that PbS data collection will begin April 1 and continue through April 30. Site coordinators at the three secure care facilities will be busy collecting Exit Surveys, Incident Reports, Youth Records, which include medical/mental health/education/treatment data, and Staff and Youth Surveys. Please be willing to lend support during this process.

“Aftercare Managers/PPOs in the regional offices have started collecting the aftercare data year round and are doing a great job,” Katie said. The aftercare data focuses on treatment and services needed once the youth returns back in the community. The aftercare piece is part of the Youth Record that is initiated in the facilities.

Performance-based Standards (PbS) for youth facilities is a system used to identify and improve conditions and treatment services for incarcerated youth, using national standards and outcome measures. The program is administered by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA). OJJ has participated in PbS since October 2006

PbS participants collect and analyze data from records, reports and interviews, to target specific areas for improvement. The data is used to generate reports that track performance over time and shows each facility’s performance measures compared to averages. Areas needing improvement are identified and detailed improvement plans are developed by facility staff and PbS consultants.

PbS provides goals and standards for facilities and agencies; tools to help facilities achieve these standards; reports that evaluate performance in comparison to similar facilities and information about effective practices.

Benefits of PbS include development of ability to measure and track key indicators of facility performance compared with similar participating facilities nationwide; definition of measurable goals and development of strategies to achieve them; resources and assistance to improve operations and accountability and data to help gain public support.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO James Percle was selected **Employee of the Month** for February. He has been a member of the OJJ family since July 2002. James was employed by Waterford 3 Nuclear Power Plant with the Armed Nuclear Security Threat Response Force for 5 years before coming on board with OJJ. He is also Thibodaux OJJ's firearms instructor, training coordinator, and a member of the Emergency Response Team. James is an extraordinary probation officer and a valuable asset to our team.

Best Wishes

PPO Peter Pobocik entered the P.O.S.T. Academy in Baton Rouge at the end of February. We wished him the best of luck.



**A friend is
someone who
fills our lives
with beauty, joy,
and grace.**

Tallulah Regional Office

Welcome

Tallulah OJJ welcomes intern **Dynesha Garner**. Dynesha lives in Tallulah and attends Grambling State University.

Congratulations

PPS Margo Corulla's new granddaughter, **Evelyn Grace**, was born February 2, and weighed 5 pounds 3ozs.

Four Tallulah region youth graduated from Camp Minden, Youth Challenge Program in January.

Seven youth from the Tallulah region reported to Camp Minden in February to begin the Youth Challenge Program, which appears to be very beneficial for our youth.

Three Tallulah region youth received their GEDs.

Swanson Center for Youth

A January Message from Director Carolyn Atkins...

The week started off cold and icy and it was still cold. I had been watching the news. Across the country and throughout the world the weather was devastating so many lives. It caused me to stop and think about all of the things that are out of my control. And then I thought about the senseless shootings in Tucson. An innocent 9 year old was killed among many more dead and wounded.

Then I started thinking about Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and the dreams he had for the people of the greatest nation on earth. His dream was that all men would be guaranteed the "unalienable rights" of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Then, I

started thinking about what is in my control and what I do to fulfill Dr. King's dream.

It is in my control to be the best daughter, sister, aunt, friend and director that I can be. It is in my control to hire the best employees that I can find, train them well and make them a part of the OJJ family. It is in my control to hold myself and my staff to a high standard of integrity. It is in my control to ensure that I am fair and impartial when applying discipline and holding staff accountable. It is in my control to ensure that the youth in our care are treated with dignity and respect, that their basic needs are met and that we show them that who they are is important.

It is in my control not to sweat the small stuff that I'm dealing. It is in my control to pray for those that have died a senseless death, those that are sick, wounded/injured, homeless, hungry and those fighting for my freedom. It is in my control to take a stand for what is right, just because it is the right thing to do.

I challenge you not to sweat the small stuff and not to focus on what is not in your control, but to look at what you can control. I challenge you to join me in doing what you can to fulfill Dr. King's Dream. So no matter what the weather brings, no matter what senseless act someone else may commit, take a stand to stand up for what is right and focus on what is in your control.

Carolyn A. Atkins, Director

Southside High School Track Panthers..... Won Big!

Overall, our Panthers placed 5th out of 17 high school teams!

The South Side Panthers Track Team, South Side Alternative High School, competed against Wossman High School March 18.

Director Carolyn Atkins, JJS4 Detrick Massey, LaMOD Coordinator John Preston

and **Chaplain Ricky James**, offer thanks to each and every one of the staff who went out to show their support for our team, and for those who donated funds to allow the youth to look "absolutely stupendous" while winning. Through staff donations, we purchased track shoes, shorts and shirts for our track team.

The Southside Panthers trained for the competition for only a couple of weeks; yet they competed against schools and other students who have been training all year. Along with Swanson and Wossman's squads, track teams from Bastrop High School, West Ouachita High School, Carroll High School, Richwood High School and Green Oaks Detention Center in Morehouse Parish participated in the meet.

Twenty-four youth were chosen to participate in the meet. Director Atkins noted that the youth were trained by some of Swanson's employees, who volunteered on their own time.

Our Panthers all placed and some of our Panthers even brought back 1st through 4th place trophies! They showed true talent and skill to compete and win against those odds.

We congratulate our youth on their athletic prowess and their "Panther" skills! Go Southside High!

The 2011 Southside High School Panthers Winning Team:

Field Events

High Jump - **Davonte N.** Stats 6'3 - 2nd place

Long Jump- **Jenerio Y.** Stats 18 & 4½- 4th place

Montrell L. Stats 20 but scratched jumped 17 and placed 9th out of 17 jumpers

Shot Put - **Job N.** Stats threw 29' 11inches

Javelin -**Larry J.** Stats threw 77.1
Logan H. Stats threw 64.7

Running Events

4X200 Relay Team - **Quatrus W., Tevin W., Troy M., Dequincy C.**, won 6th place out of 10 teams

4X100 Relay Team - **Quatrus W., Tevin W., Stanley Y., Dequincy C., Troy M.** won 4th place out of 7 teams

4X400 Meter Relay - **Jason B., Demarkus C., Montrell L., Job N.** won 5th place out of 17 teams

3200 Meter Run - **Eric S.** won 2nd place out of 10 runners

Jenerio Y. won 4th place out of 10 runners

1600 Meter Run - **Eric S.** won 1st place with a time of 5:11.04

800 Meter Run - **Demarkus C.** won 6th place out of 15 runners

Job N. won 7th place out of 15 runners

400 Meter Run - **Victor B.** won 8th place out of 11 runners

300 Meter Hurdle - **Jenerio Y.** won 2nd place out of 8 runners

100 Meter Dash - **Troy M.** won 7th place out of 12

Adam S. won 8th place out of 12



And makes the world we live in a better and happier place.

Shreveport Regional Office

Shreveport OJJ's **Employees of the Month** were January - **PPO Bennie Walters**, and February - **PPO Brandy Stratton**. They were recognized for being great assets to the office.

Restorative Justice

Shreveport OJJ recognized Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by sharing information with our probationers.

We also recognized Black History Month by participating and supporting a Black History Program at AMI Kids – Red River. The youth put on an excellent program. Staff who attended were **PPO Alan Glover, PPO Brandy Stratton, PPO Sandy Ersoff** and **AC A.J. Glover**.

Training and Development

Shreveport supervisory staff attended training at Central Office on Motivational Interviewing.

PPO Holly Black and **PPO Bennie Walters** began POST Academy Training in February.

PPO Todd Carlisle attended Family Night at Goodwill Reintegration

PPO Anthony Hall and **PPO Jessica Flores** attended OJJ POST orientation training.

PPO Todd Carlisle and **PPO Charles Herrmann** volunteered their time to assist PPOs in preparing for the POST Academy physical assessments.

PPS Guy May, PPS Steve Martino and several **PPOs** participated in reclassification staffings for youth at SCY in January and February.

After hours curfew checks were conducted under the supervision of **PPS Steve Martino** and **PPS Guy May**.

RM Martin, PPS Carlisle, PPS Ladner and PPS May attended the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Ceremony in Shreveport, where **Mr. George Livers**, father of **Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers**, received the Louisiana Veterans Honor medal for his service in the Army during World War II.

RM Martin, PS Jan Crain, and many probation staff attended the local CSOC Regional Town Hall Meeting in February.

RM Martin also attended the Rutherford House Awards Night banquet in February.



PPS Steve Martino and his family welcomed the newest member. **Baby Nicholas Patrick Martino** was born January 21, weighing a healthy 6 lb 15 oz. and was 19 inches long.



Sarah Kasey Scott was recently crowned Beauty Queen of Parkway High School in Bossier City. Kasey is a senior at Parkway HS. She plans to attend Northwestern State University in the fall. Kasey is the daughter of **PPS Kim Scott-Carlisle**.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations



PPO Lemoyne Reine was the **Officer of the Month** for January. Lemoyne began his tenure with OJJ in October 2003. His supervisor, **Lydia Johnson**, describes him as being readily available to render assistance to her and co-workers

alike. Lydia also noted Lemoyne is very dutiful in supervising youth who are battling numerous obstacles and barriers that could block their success in life. Lydia said that Lemoyne usually exceeds the required number of contacts in this type of situation and provides special attention and additional effort in his pursuit of successful outcomes. Special thanks to Lemoyne Reine for his display of exceptional teamwork and dedicated effort!

Lasting Impact Generates Special Recognition

RM Kelly Clement was recognized for his untiring, dedicated years of service on the St. Charles Parish Children and Youth Planning Board. The commendation was issued by the St. Charles Office of the Council Secretary. Thanks to RM Clement for unselfishly sharing your experience and expertise with others!!

Restorative Justice Program

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) held a restorative justice activity in January with OJJ youth, focused on the "Life and Legacy of a King." Youth researched information and learned historical facts about Dr. Martin Luther King, and shared their research while building on past group discussions relating to restorative justice topics. Hats off to YEP for being a restorative agent for healthy, positive change!!

PPO Schofield on the Speaking Circuit

PPO3 Stanley Schofield started the year off with a bang by speaking at a commemorative event at the Westside Martin Luther King Program which honored the "Life and Legacy of a King." Several community activists and leaders attended.

Stanley had the honor of participating in a motivational speaking event at the Progressive Black Student Union at Xavier University. The speech focused on moving toward positive change and hope for our youth (Stop the Violence).

A Blast from the Past

PPO3 Daria Melder had an unexpected visit from a former client. The youth, Christian D., wanted Daria to know about his plans for the future. He told her that he intends to enlist in the U.S. Army when he reaches age 17 this May. He also wanted her to know that her involvement in his life had a positive impact on him.

Daria was surprised by the visit from Christian, as she had not worked with him for a very long time. However, this proves that we should make the most of every opportunity we have to effect positive change in someone's life. Let's focus on quality and not quantity.

The Accolades Just Keep Rolling In

PPO3 Lemoyne Reine received a letter from client Thurmaneika J. Her letter began by saying that she wanted to put a smile on Mr. Reine's face. She did more than that with all of the kind, heartfelt things she had to say about his belief in her ability to be successful. She also thanked Lemoyne's supervisor, **Lydia Johnson**, and a co-worker, **PPO Khristina Koontz**, for not giving up on her. Thurmaneika shared that "all y'all mean more to me than just being my probation officer... y'all are like family to me."

RM Kelly Clement shared Thurmaneika's letter during a recent staff meeting. He said that every PPO is worthy of receiving such a complimentary letter based on their hard work and dedication in providing services to the youth and families of this community. We couldn't agree more with that statement.

And on that note, on behalf of the youth and families of this community, a big ole hearty thank you to **PPO Melder** and **PPO Reine** for their hard work and unselfish service to others!

OJJ Parents Are Recognized

In recognition of Black History Month, **PPO3 Milton Crosby, Jr.'s** parents, **Gretna Councilman Milton L. Crosby, Sr.** and wife **Jacqueline Crosby**, were featured in the Fellowship Journal, a Jefferson Parish newspaper. Mr. Crosby, Sr. is renowned educator with a Bachelor's degree from Grambling State University, Masters degree from UNO and certification in Administration and Supervision from Tulane University. Jacqueline is a retired elementary school teacher. Mr. Crosby also worked at Rivarde Detention Center for 38 years.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



February Employee of the Month was PPO Kelvin Jones.



PPO 3 Joseph Black and Ninaette welcomed Baby **Haiden Justis Black** on February 8. In the center is big brother **Joseph Black, Jr.**

PPOs Kelvin Jones, left, and Todd Roszell, right, began the POST Academy in February.



PPOs Kelvin Jones and Brenda Sarpy attended the Black History Month program at Northwestern State University.



*Above, PPO Kelvin Jones and Diane Jones.
Below, PPO Brenda Sarpy.*



Monroe Regional Office

Staff Training Opportunities

PPO3 Willie Hunter, AC3 Shirley Price and AC3 Janice Curvin attended the CTPT class, Professionalism and Productivity, at ULM.

Monroe OJJ staff completed our mandatory annual 8 hour classroom training. The class was taught by **PPO3 Jennifer Bible, PPS Karl Wallace and PPS Gail Wilson.**

Monroe OJJ staff received valuable SAVRY Booster Training conducted by **PPS Linda Williams, PPO3 Hannah Dozier and PPO2 Cheryl Pringle.**

Monroe OJJ supervisors **Linda Williams, Karl Wallace, Orlando Davis and Gail Wilson** attended the Probation Supervisor Booster to Support Motivational Interviewing Implementation in Baton Rouge. The training was presented by **Dr. Stephen Phillippi.**

RM Patty Newman, PPS Orlando Davis and PPO3 Patrick Cooper attended the MADD Power of Parents on Underage Drinking seminar hosted by OJJ and held at ULM.

Staff Also Have Fun

Monroe OJJ recently enjoyed a Chili Day, thanks to **PPS Karl Wallace**, who provided fresh ground deer meat, and **PPO3 David McMillan** who **wowed** everyone with his secret recipe. It was delicious!

There is a miracle called friendship, that dwells in the heart. You do not know how it happens or when it gets its start.



Lake Charles Regional Office

Congratulations

In January **CWA Erline Pierce** celebrated two years being back at LC OJJ. She has 16 total OJJ years.

In February **PPO3 Karli Pullard** celebrated 11 years of service to LC OJJ.

In March, **PPS Melissa Cross** celebrated 11 years of service to LC OJJ.

RM Ann Vick attended the ACA Conference. Ann has been an ACA Auditor for many years.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl For Kids' Sake

Lake Charles OJJ staff and their children turned out in a big way to support the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl For Kids' Sake 2010. *Pictured below are Fred Fontenot, Erline Pierce, Garrick Chambers, Angela Stevens and Hollie Comeaux.*



Below are: back row: Karli Pullard, Erica Purkey, Rebecca Harmon, Monet Newman, Melissa Cross. Middle: Brittany Purkey. Front: Landon Newman.



Client's Poem Published

This poem was written by a youth from Lake Charles OJJ, and was published in Dr. Brandon Romano & Associates' quarterly newsletter and on their website. The poem was shared by a very proud supervising **PPO, Ronald Gilchrist.**

This poem was written to share with youth who are choosing a lifestyle that will lead to doing time in juvenile detention. The author wanted to convey that home is where they should be and that juvenile detention is a sad and lonely place. He hopes that other youth will be inspired by his poem and that they will take the opportunity to make better decisions about their lives.

Blue Walls By Isaiah T.

Blue walls are all I see
Blue walls I never want to see
Blue walls make me cry
Blue, cuz all I see is crime
Juvey is not the place to be
I'm here but it is just not me
Blue walls coming to an end
Blue walls I'll never see again
White walls because I'm free
White walls are the place to be

Training Opportunities

RM Ann Vick, along with representatives from the DA's Office, the school system, the SANE Nurse, etc. has been presenting the Region 6 sexual offender continuum of care to the superintendent, school board officials, and others as a preventative measure to reduce the number of juvenile sexual arrests.

Lake Charles OJJ completed the Motivational Interviewing Booster Training presented by MI Master Trainers, **PPS Ken Vidrine** and **PPO Angie Stevens**, with assistance from **PPS Melissa Cross**. PPOs have begun practicing these MI techniques. Self-assessments for MI skills will begin soon.

PPO3 Fred Fontenot conducted PPCT Defensive Tactics Refreshers for all officers. Fred was complimented on his real-life training for Verified Complaint Executions. Officers were required to perform equipment checks and to act as team leaders for VC executions.

We Fete a New Dad and Welcome the New Baby

Lake Charles OJJ surprised daddy-to-be, **PPO2 Garrick "Junior" Chambers**, with a very masculine baby shower in anticipation of the birth of **Major Anthony Chambers**. Garrick was very appreciative of the diapers, wipes, outfits and personalized gifts.

Pictured below are Garrick, gifts and the cake for the shower.



Congratulations to **Garrick "Junior" Chambers** and his wife, **Jonn**, on the birth of their first baby and son, **Major Anthony Chambers** (little "MAC"), born February 1. Major weighed in at 6 pounds 5 ounces, and he was 19.5 inches long. Junior and

Jonn have been blessed with a healthy, beautiful baby boy! At birth, Major was already able to make a grimace just like the one for which his daddy is famous!

PPO Jeff Haley made accepted suggestions to streamline the policy review process. This will eliminate the policies being read in staff meetings and will hold individuals responsible for reading the policies as they are revised.

PPO Jeff Haley recently discussed plans to coordinate training for "Thinking for a Change" with Boy's Village.

PPO Hollie Comeaux continues to serve as a strong advocate for her probationers to continue with their education despite all past school related problems. Two of her probationers recently entered YCP Camp Beauregard and three more will soon interview.

PPO3 Delisa Clark attended Black History Month celebrations hosted by AMI/Kids Southwest. Students reviewed the history behind Black History Month and presented on their favorite Black American. The guest speaker, **Ms. Faye Brown Blackwell**, owns KZWA radio station in Lake Charles. Her message to the students was to reach for your dreams. She warned them that they would encounter obstacles, but urged them to press on, as it can be done. They also had a guest soloist. Photos, pictures, and other black history artifacts were displayed for students and guests. All AMI Kids youth were on their best behavior during the program.

PPO Fred Fontenot researched the sex offender laws in Louisiana and found some of the requirements of the law are not being implemented locally by the court. He has brought that to the attention of the local officials, who are looking into this.

PPO Fred Fontenot and **PPO Rebecca Harmon** represented LC OJJ at an OJJ meeting in Alexandria, to learn about FEMA requirement for first responder training.

PPO Rebecca Harmon has been working with youth G.W., who has a serious mental illness that prevents him from being successful in a group home setting. She is collaborating with local mental health agencies in addressing the youth's mental health needs. She has engaged DHH in helping with the youth's needs.

PPO3 Monet Newman assisted Lake Charles OJJ in obtaining a firearms instructor for March annual firearms qualifications.

PPO Jeff Haley and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** took advantage of free (donated) Swashbuckler tickets offered to PPOs and deserving probationers. PPO Haley selected three juveniles to reward, and PPO Gilchrist selected two juveniles to reward. The game will take place on April 16. Before the game, probationers will hear a teamwork speech during a pizza party.

Judge Kerry Anderson of the 36th JDC visited the Lake Charles OJJ office and complimented our officers on their professionalism and knowledge of their cases.

PPO Delisa Clark, **PPO Alexis Heflin** and **PPO Monet Newman** volunteered to represent Lake Charles OJJ at the McNeese State University Career Fair to seek prospective future employees, inform college students about our agency, and recruit interested interns/volunteers. All three PPOs took the time to update photos on the Career Fair Display Board prior to the fair. Delisa updated the informational handouts, and Monet brought her laptop and OJJ Orientation DVD to add interest through electronic visuals to our display.

PPS Ken Vidrine and **PPO Fred Fontenot** attended the Connections Count Conference at L'Auberge Casino in Lake Charles.

PPO Monet Newman has been sending weekly cards of encouragement to a YCP resident who is near graduation, as her family has not sent any mail. Monet felt that this would motivate this young lady, and it definitely has had a positive impact on this cadet's performance, motivation, and outlook.

PPO Karli Pullard volunteered to transport the mother and sister of D.B. (a Lake Charles OJJ and New Orleans OJJ shared case) to New Directions in Lafayette to participate in

a clarification session between client and his victim/younger sister.

PPO Ronald Gilchrist has worked very hard with officials at Jetson to get an escorted leave for client D.H. He helped provide the transportation for the youth's family to meet at a restaurant in Baton Rouge. The pass went really well between the youth and his family. The facility reports that the youth had a favorable response after the escorted absence.

Modeling the Way

PPO Hollie Comeaux continues to *model the way* with youth C.C., who has a history of physical abuse and neglect. Hollie continues to advocate for her to complete the Transitional Living Program (supervised apartments) so C.C. will become self dependent, as she will have no family support when she reaches the age of 18.

PPO Rebecca Harmon is *modeling the way* as she volunteered to help the local "Project Know" with their alcohol-free, family-centered zone and activities during the Mardi Gras parade.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Wanda Sylvester has completed her Masters of Science in Criminal Justice through the University of Phoenix. Wanda completed her degree in November, and will receive it at the commencement ceremony in Baton Rouge in April. Congratulations, Wanda!

Congratulations to **PPOs Josh Brown, Lakaisha Lewis, Seth Richard** and **Jamie Wallace**, who recently completed their 40-Hour PPCT training.

PPO Jason Trahan reports a success story in the case of Cody C., a graduate of the FAST program at Jetson. Upon returning home, he earned his GED, and has already completed two of the requirements needed for his Welding certificate. Jason is very proud of Cody, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Welcome

Lafayette OJJ welcomed new **PPO Jamie Wallace**. We hope she truly feels at home and among friends here at Lafayette OJJ!

PPO Kevin Broussard helped to coordinate and run the Viking Saga Speech and Debate Tournament at Northside High School in Lafayette.

Jetson Center for Youth

HATS OFF TO ALL JCY STAFF!

Jetson Was Found To Be In Compliance With Office of Risk Management Requirements

From **Debbie Linder, OJJ Safety Officer**
Subject: JCY Official ORM Audit

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Yesterday was a great day in the neighborhood. I was at Jetson with Kim Ramer, the loss prevention officer from the Office of Risk Management (ORM) (FARA). For the first time in many years Jetson was found to be in compliance with the requirements of ORM. Jetson passed with flying colors and a high percentage. I was so proud of **Joan King, JCY's Safety Officer**. Over the last couple of years she has worked very hard to turn the Safety Program into something to be proud of and her efforts are finally starting to show up in the world of loss prevention. Joan is very dedicated to this

program and it definitely showed during her presentation.

Many thanks to Director Daron Brown for supporting the Safety Program. He has always taken seriously the quarterly recommendations by CQIS and implemented the necessary changes in his program to make this happen. I want to thank him for backing up his safety officer in the process.

My thanks to **Belinda Thomas**, who did her part with policy revisions. We all know that this is not an easy task. And last but not least, **Ramona Garror**, who in the absence of **Robert Young**, was able to present our changes in the Equipment Management Program very effectively. She did a great job and was able to show that our work order system at JCY is finally up, functional, and operating as it should on a daily basis.

I look forward to working with all of them in the future. Now that JCY has accomplished this task, they can focus their attention on moving the facility from a Class B to a Class A. This is going to be a major challenge for everyone involved but I have no doubt that this group of employees can take the next step and move this program forward.

Thanks,
Debbie Linder,
Executive Management Officer

From: **DAS Sean C. Hamilton**

Team,
This is OUTSTANDING news. I salute the amazing work of the Jetson team for a job very well done. Hats off to **Joan King, Ramona Garror, Belinda Thomas** and **Director Daron Brown** for your amazing work and dedication to this project. You make us very proud.

Jetson...you rock!
Sean Hamilton

From: Belinda Thomas
To: Debbie Linder

Thank you all for your congratulatory and encouraging words, we really appreciate it. As a team at JCY and for OJJ, we will continue to strive for excellence.

The team, Joan, Ramona and I, and including all the staff at JCY, thank all of you for your support. Debbie, thank you for your leadership and support. It was through your vision and all the other staff from the other facilities that came together to create the audit tool that assisted and directed us to full compliance.

Debbie, YOU ROCK !

To: Ms. Ramona Garror
RE: JCY Official ORM Audit 2011

Dear Ms. Garror:

I wanted to take a moment to commend you for stepping up to the plate during the 2011 ORM Audit for JCY. In the absence of Mr. Robert Young, you were assigned the task of presenting the changes in the JCY Equipment Management Program. You took the task and did an exemplary job. Your professionalism and knowledge of the program were very apparent among those in attendance and could not go unrecognized by Central Office or myself.

With that, I want to thank you for a job well done! It is said, "When placed in command, take charge." You did just that, you took charge and you stood out for it.

I am honored to have you as an employee. Again, thank you for your commitment to JCY, its employees like you who truly make a difference and make me proud to be the leader of such a fine staff.

Keep up the good work!

Respectfully,
Daron Brown, Director

Supervisors' Training

All supervisors at Jetson Center for Youth participated in an outstanding training program presented by **Fouad Harb**, LaMod Coordinator. The purpose of the training was to build teams that trusted each other. The participants completed many activities during the 6 hour training. Most of the activities centered on building teams and demonstrating teamwork. The workshop allowed for many moments of laughter as the groups attempted to successfully complete the activities.

An abundance of information was shared with the group, emphasizing the benefits of teamwork and how much can be accomplished with teamwork. When the training was completed, the participants felt that the time was well spent on these activities and they look forward to a more cohesive team at Jetson.

Director Daron Brown was especially proud of all of the participants. He noted that **Fouad Harb** did an outstanding job of organizing this event. Below are pictures of one of the team building exercises.



Transition Services at Scenic Alternative High School

Ms. Adrian Skipper is the new Transition Coordinator for the youth at Scenic Alternative High School. She comes to this position with lots of experience. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Southern University and retired from East Baton Rouge Parish School System with over 30 years of

experience teaching English at Tara High School.

Adrian will assist youth with pre-release activities and arrange for job interviews, post secondary school enrollments, and provide information on how to access local resources. She will work closely with the youth's counselor and the dorm leaders to address the many needs of the students.

Adrian said that she is happy to be a part of the Jetson family and looks forward to making a difference in the lives of these youth. **Mr. Ronnie Knox**, school principal, is thrilled to have Ms. Skipper to provide a link between school and community.

Black History Celebration at Scenic Alternative HS

Black history was celebrated at Scenic Alternative High School at a program held in the gym. The program was exemplary from the moment one entered until the closing remarks. The gym was aesthetically decorated with wonderful graphics of noted African-Americans inventors, writers and singers. The chairs were arranged theatre style.

The youth were very receptive to the program and were responsive to the guest speakers. **Domminique A.** led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed with an invocation by **Bishop Samuel Butler**, horticulture instructor. The audience remained standing during the singing of the Black National Anthem.

Jyquincee C. welcomed everyone to the event. Three students, **Dedric W.**, **Clarence M.** and **Deandre G.**, gave oral presentations about three outstanding black personalities. **Dorm Leader Frances Bailey** and her music group sang a beautiful song.

Timothy C. presented a monologue with the theme, what would we do without black people? A PowerPoint visual graphics pictorial flashed on the screen as he presented

the story of accomplishments by many people. His speaking voice and the way he presented the materials was outstanding. This part of the program set the stage for what was to follow.

Mr. Harry Johnson, saxophonist, was the first guest speaker. The youth were very interested in what he shared with them. Mr. Johnson is 80 years old, and is retired from the military, as well as a retired child welfare and attendance worker. He remarried at 72 years of age. His message to the youth was that they can reach their dreams by studying hard, staying the course and being honest.

The last presenters were **Adrian Brumfield** and **Tony Edward Wyatt**. These two young people presented religious rap music. Of course, our youth were very interested in their style of presentation. They shared the message that our youths' lives can be successful with faith, trust, and hope. They shared many original songs and personal testimony.

Overall, this program was dignity-based and professionally planned by **Ms. Willie Etta Geraldts**, social studies teacher. **Ms. Kimberly Ringgold**, English teacher, and **Ms. Demetria Sheppard**, SSD para-educator were very helpful in arranging the seating and decorating the walls. **Mr. Larry Poor** and **Mr. Samuel Butler** helped with the greenery from the horticulture classes. This wonderful program was just delightful.

Project Giving-Back: Horticulture Classes at Scenic Alternative HS

The horticulture classes are digging into dirt these days. They are busy preparing to plant seedlings in order to be ready for Project Giving-Back. This project will be tied to Restorative Justice, spearheaded by science teacher **Mr. Dwayne Nedie**. **Mr. Larry Poor** and **Mr. Samuel Butler**, horticulture experts, introduced this project to the students. They have been gaining knowledge

about soil, fertilizer, growth cycles, organic gardening, tilling and transplanting.

Each student has planted seeds and they are growing. A variety of plants will be producing wonderful products soon. Each student decided which seeds to plant. They could choose from sweet corn, watermelon, romaine lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries and jalapeño peppers. The tomatoes are a hybrid class that **Dr. Haywood** of Burden Research donated to the horticulture class.

Once the plants are transplanted and start producing, small gift bags of produce will be distributed to nursing homes in the north Baton Rouge area. Mr. Poor and Mr. Butler will network with local produce markets to get the small bags donated.

They students waited patiently for winter to be over, the groundhog to see his shadow, and a full moon to get this show on the road.

“Where’s The Beef?” - English Classes at Scenic Alternative HS

English teachers **Ms. Kimberly Ringgold** and **Ms. Carolyn Rash**, have been busy making burgers. Not the ones you eat, but the ones that demonstrate the concept of writing topic sentences and supporting statements. This hands-on activity was very exciting for the students. They could definitely relate to the burger analogy. The top part of the “bun” was the topic sentence. The lettuce, tomato, and cheese were the three supporting statements. The bottom part of the “bun” was the closing statement, or conclusion.

Each student had colored shapes of buns, tomatoes, lettuce and cheese in which to write their sentences. The completed project decorated hall bulletin boards throughout both school buildings. This project was very creative and will help the students to become better writers, which is a requirement of the LEAP and the GED.

“Teach Like Your Hair’s On Fire” A Book Study at Scenic Alternative HS

We continued to discuss this book at teachers’ staff development opportunities, and the final chapters were recently presented.

“Taxman” was presented by **Ms. Harriet Ellis**. This chapter teaches students real skills that will be helpful for the rest of their lives. The skills emphasized were organization, earning money, budgeting expenses, ownership benefits, importance of savings, and to delay gratification. By teaching these skills, students learn the value of money.

“Celluloid Heroes” was presented by **Dr. Todd Terminie**. Dr. Terminie was very entertaining with all of his suggestions for teachers when using film to drive home the skills being taught. Movies in classes are very beneficial to both students and teachers. Multiple Intelligence theory supports the concept that many students are visual learners. Watching a film plus reading a text usually leads to better retention and students express a greater interest in the topic being presented. Dr. Terminie demonstrated to the staff how to search the web to narrow down the exact topic being searched for.

“It’s Only Rock n Roll (but I Like It)” was presented by **Ms. Gail Hargrove**. This chapter discusses students learning to play musical instruments. The author introduced his students to music as an avenue to becoming lifelong musicians. An important fact is that music students have the lowest levels of abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs and have fewer discipline problems. Music develops skills necessary for the workplace, such as dependability, courage, pride and discipline. Listening to music helps people to attain self improvement and have a better quality of life. Research shows that music study enhances teamwork skills, as all players in a music group must work together harmoniously toward a common goal - performing.

“Do They Know It’s Christmas?” was presented by **Mr. Larry Poor**. This chapter emphasized that a teacher can select projects that will build character and give students a sense of “it’s the right thing to do.” Projects can build self esteem and self confidence within oneself. Projects should be about giving something back; for example, a card project for retirement center residents. The impact of such projects are that students feel a sense of accomplishment, pride, positive recognition and an understanding that they are worthwhile and contributing citizen.

“Will Power” was presented by **Mr. Samuel Butler**. This chapter emphasized that students and teachers must have the willpower to stick with something like a project and see it to the end. This probably will always involve preparation, practice, costume design/making and performance. Some projects take an entire year to complete because students have to analyze, dissect, tear down and rebuild until the final product is complete. Mr. Butler stressed that our jobs are 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. There is no finish line that we can look forward to because each day is just another day in the lives of our students. We must face the challenges that are presented and have the willpower to stay the course.

Principal Ronnie Knox has the next book ready for the faculty to begin their study and research. He comments often on how proud he is of the way the staff presented their chapters and was amazed at their creative ability.

Get Caught Reading Program Presents Speaker Foxx Rich to Address Students

Jetson students read a book together as part of the Get Caught Reading program, and we were able to have the author as a guest.

Foxx Rich, author of “The One that Got Away,” recently spoke at a JCY/Scenic Alternative High School student/staff assembly. Her presentation was intended to

motivate the students to “do the right thing.” She spoke about her young adult life, her desire to be successful, and her decisions that stopped her in her tracks. For some reason, she and her husband decided to rob an out-of-town bank to get \$50,000 to stock a designer clothing store. Thinking they would not get caught, they knew this would help them to become successful. BUT, they did get caught and were convicted as felons. After serving her time in various Louisiana prison settings, she was released.

While incarcerated, Foxx learned to become a public speaker. Today she speaks at local, state and national events. By telling her story, she hopes that people will learn from her mistakes and make a better life for themselves. She stresses that hard work, determination, and education are important to becoming the best person that you can be.

Each student received a copy of her book so they could read about details of her life and how she made changes to become successful.



Jetson Life Skills Instructor Denise Clause and her hound dog Elvis, turned out in style for Mardi Paws.

Hammond Regional Office

SUPERSTAR!

PPO Shirley Verberne was the Hammond OJJ Superstar for January. She was recognized by **Administrative Coordinator Courtney Pegues** for shredding the paper in her shred box. That was a major job! **PPO Jamie Oertel** was the Hammond OJJ Superstar for February. She was recognized by **PPO Denise Wall** for picking up clothing from the courthouse for a youth who was entering non-secure placement.

Good Luck

PPOs Jenna Hill and Jamie Oertel began the POST Academy. We wish them luck!

Welcome

Hammond OJJ welcomed two new employees. **PPO Jonathan Varnado** and **Transport Officer Todd Vicknair** recently became part of our team.

PPCT Training Held

PPS Carrie Austin and **PPS Johnny Prentice** held a 40 hour PPCT (Pressure Point Control Tactics) Certification class in the Hammond office. Participants included **Jonathan Varnado** and **Todd Vicknair** from Hammond, **Peter Pobocik** from Thibodaux, **Warren Hudgins** and **Nakia Harris** from New Orleans, and **Seth Richard** and **Lakaisha Lewis** from Lafayette. Hammond OJJ staff also participated in PPCT refresher classes during January.



PPS Carrie Austin and PPS Johnny Prentice demonstrate proper PPCT techniques.

It Was EPIC!

Brian Lovins, MSW and **Angela Estes** with the University of Cincinnati, provided EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) Training to the Hammond OJJ staff in January. The Hammond Region will be a pilot for the new model, which targets criminogenic needs of higher risk offenders. With the EPICS model, probation officers follow a structured approach to their interactions with the youth. Each session will follow four components: 1-Check In; 2-Review; 3-Intervention and 4- Homework and Rehearsal. The training teaches PPOs to become “agents of change.” The Hammond OJJ staff was very interested and engaged in the training, as you can see in the pictures!



Above: Brian Lovins, MSW, presents EPICS Training to Hammond OJJ staff. Below: “EPICS Role Playing” – PPOs Jonathan Varnado, Denise Wall, Jenna Hill, Kasey Wall, and Jamie Oertel participate in a role playing exercise during EPICS Training.



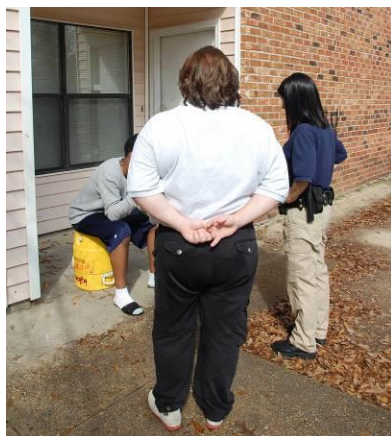
Central Office

Job Shadowing: an Eye-Opening Experience

Members of the Executive Team had the opportunity to spend a day literally walking in the shoes of probation officers and juvenile justice specialists. The P&P offices and secure care facilities are the backbone of OJJ. We in the central office support their work, but oftentimes we don't really know what they do, and what they deal with on a daily basis.

Likewise, regional office staff and secure care staff don't know much about what central office staff members do. The job shadowing gave us some time to share our experiences and discuss each other's job duties. To say it was an eye-opening experience is putting it mildly. It was a very intense learning experience for most of us, and it was only a few hours.

We met at the Baton Rouge OJJ office in the morning before riding out with Probation and Parole Officers on their regular rounds.



Auditor Gay Lynn Brown and PPO 2 Darla Hood visit with a youth at his residence.

We visited youth at the East Baton Rouge Juvenile Detention Center, at a high school, and at their residences. We went into neighborhoods that most of us did not know existed. We heard kids tell their PPO things that spoke to the reality of their lives.

After our brief visits in the field, it's time to return to the Baton Rouge office to debrief and head out to Jetson.

We are assigned to dorms and we go to the dining hall to have lunch with the youth. Conversation was scarce; the youth were very hungry.

Then we return to the dorm to observe and participate in the LaMOD processes and spend time with the youth. We come away with more understanding of who our kids are and what they went through before becoming OJJ kids. We are ready to go home and hug our own children a little tighter.

We experience the quiet of the campus and mentally compare it with the days, not so long ago, before LaMOD was implemented. We come away with tremendous respect for the staff members who spend their lives taking care of our youth.

Although the job shadow experience was only a day, and we only spent a few hours in each place, we felt that we had participated in a day in the life of the heart of OJJ. We are looking forward to repeating the experience in other regional offices and facilities.

Many thanks to Baton Rouge **RM Sue Larisey** and her entire staff, and to Jetson **Director Daron Brown**, and the staff and youth, who allowed us to have a look at the real OJJ world.



Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney Peterson visits with Jetson youth.

Monroe's Carroll High School Knits OJJ Staff Together

Donna Bowie, OJJ's Family Services Liaison, proudly shares a picture of her nephew, **Cameron Sims**, who stars with the Bulldogs of Carroll High basketball team as he makes big contributions to their winning the Class 3A State Title.



Carroll center Cameron Sims #30, left, tries to get the ball past Holy Cross guard Joel Pichon during their LHSAA tournament semifinals game at the Cajundome in Lafayette.

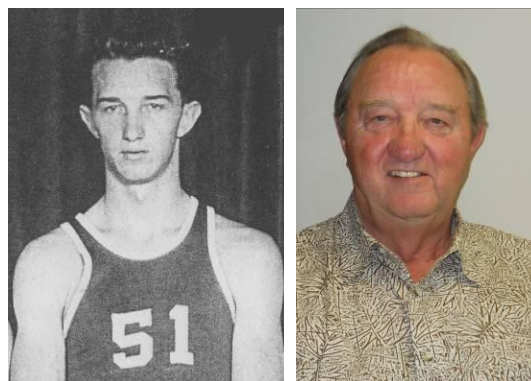
Yes, the Carroll High Bulldogs produce leaders and Deputy Assistant Secretary **Carolyn B. Lewis**, alumna of Carroll HS, is one of those leaders.

OJJ's Title I Director **James "Ed" Green** received an award as a High School Basketball Legend, during the LHSAA Boys Championship game in Lafayette. He and his family were in the crowd to witness the Carroll Bulldogs win.

Ed Green is a 1963 graduate of Holden High School, where he led the Rockets to the 1963 state championship with a record of 46-2. During his high school basketball career, his honors included being named to state teams for two years. He was a member of all district, all regional, and all state teams for several years, and was one of the leading scorers and rebounders in the state. Holden HS won 6 tournaments during his junior year and 13 tournaments in his senior year. Ed was named "Mr. Basketball." Ed was named "Most Valuable Player" for Livingston Parish. Ed, team captain for two years, led McNeese State University to win the Gulf States Conference, and was the top rebounder

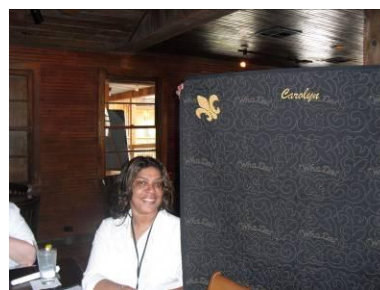
in that conference, and he was inducted into the McNeese Hall of Fame. Ed coached at Albany High, Hammond High and Maurepas High, taking his teams to the state playoffs several times. He was named "Coach of the Year" for Livingston Parish. After coaching, Ed spent 25 years at the LA Department of Education as the State Title I Director.

And now **OJJ** has the honor of having **Ed Green** on our team. He has been with OJJ for the past three years.



Ed Green, then and now.

Community-Based Services Celebrates DAS Carolyn Lewis' Birthday in Style



"Celebrating You! You deserve a day to remember" was the theme for a birthday celebration

for **DAS Carolyn B. Lewis**. The celebration included lunch at Parrain's Restaurant, a homemade 7-up cake, and vanilla ice cream. Carolyn's team presented her with a "personalized" birthday card made by Program Coordinator **Laquelia Smith** and a personalized hand-made "Saints Who Dat" quilt made by IT Programmer **Shannon Howell**, displayed in the photo. The only mystery is.....just how many candles were on the cake.

Addis 4 year old meets renowned Paleontologist

While visiting the Houston Museum of History and Natural Science with his parents, **Danny and OJJ Attorney Revettea Woods**, four year old Danny Ray Woods II, amazed one of the museum's guides with his knowledge of dinosaurs and the study of paleontology. Danny and his parents were encouraged by the museum guide to return to the museum to have breakfast with the world renowned paleontologist, Dr. Robert Bakker. Danny returned to the Houston Museum accompanied by his parents and grandparents. Along with some 200 children, parents and grandparents, Danny had an opportunity to have conversation and breakfast with Dr. Bakker. Danny and Dr. Bakker engaged in an extensive conversation about the size and speed of a deinonychus. After breakfast, guests attended an informative lecture by Dr. Bakker. The children were encouraged in their academic pursuits. Parents were advised that the study of dinosaurs develops analytical, reading, math and science skills. Upon being able to correctly identify a hand drawn sketch of a lambeosaurus, Dr. Bakker presented Danny with the signed sketch. Danny received a children's book written and autographed by Dr. Bakker. Danny aspires to be a paleontologist, and he says his favorite dinosaur is a giganotosaurus.



Danny Ray Woods, II and Dr. Robert Bakker at the Houston Museum of History and Natural Science.

Bridge City Center for Youth

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

As parents delight in hearing glowing reports about their children, I am sure you also enjoy hearing when your administration, staff and youth represent Bridge City Center for Youth professionally and in a manner reflective of your agency's mission and goals. Inhale and let your chest expand, garner up a big smile because you have ample reason to be proud.

On January 7, 18 Ole Miss students and I had the pleasure of spending the morning with **Director Linda London, Assistant Director Ricky Wright**, four youth and a number of other staff members. We arrived for the tour and progressed quickly through security procedures. Once the tour started, the staff and youth integrated well with my students and if it weren't for the physical setting, one might have thought it was some type of social mixer on campus. During the tour, the staff and youth presented their program professionally. They were engaging, polite and very informative.

Thank you for granting permission for us to participate in the superb correctional experience. While I have lectured about the need for juvenile correctional reform, the time spent with your staff and students enabled students to more readily understand what they are learning and thus retain the knowledge to a greater degree than when merely having information presented to them through traditional classroom lectures and readings. The hands-on nature was highly motivating for my students.

I wanted you to know that the Bridge City Center for Youth administrators, staff and youth served as tremendous ambassadors and represented Louisiana's Office of Juvenile Justice in an exemplary manner.

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda Keena
University of Mississippi, Department of Legal Studies

Dr. Keena,

I am delighted to know the tour of our Bridge City campus served as a comprehensive learning experience for your students. We strive daily to actualize our mission of protecting the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law abiding citizens. **Director London** and her team are quite capable and do an exceptional job of administering our treatment model, and helping young people realized their potential. It was our pleasure to provide this experience to your students. If there are other ways we can support your students as they matriculate through their studies, don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Sean C. Hamilton

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Facilities and Treatment), Department of Juvenile Justice

Black History Month Celebrated

Doreen Phoenix along with committee members **Elisa Adams** and **James Eubanks** put together a wonderful program in February celebrating Black History Month. The committee did a great job with assembling a great lineup of guest speakers that included **Attorney Mark Spears**, **Sally Ann Roberts** of WWL TV Channel 4, **State Representative Girod Jackson III**, **Councilman Glenn Green**, and **Jordan Johnson**, a high school student from Helen Cox High School.

In attendance were **DAS Sean Hamilton**, **Title I Director James "Ed" Green** and **Director Linda London**. After the color guard presented the flags everyone participated in singing the Black National Anthem and received an opening prayer by **Reverend Torin Sanders**.

The students presented original poetry and read other published poetry before the speakers were presented. A special mime

dance was performed by The City of Love. Original positive rap was performed by students from Liberty Dormitory. After the speakers were finished, Director London addressed the youth and gave some positive insight to the students about what Black History means to her.

Chef Ron Sonnier and Ed Green then presented award certificates to the students who had recently passed their ServSafe certification exams in Culinary Arts. The students of the Culinary Arts class prepared cookies and punch for everyone. The event was very uplifting and enjoyed by all who attended.



Guest mime dancer from The City of Love.



Teachers dressed in African attire for the Black History Program. From left: Elise Adams, Ina Anderson, Brenda Williams, Kenyatta Guilford, and Christopher B. Mays

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ kicked off the month with our central office staff shadowing a few of our PPOs around town, visiting youth and their families, and gaining some hands-on experience into the day-to-day activities of a PPO. The Central Office staff were very complimentary as they provided detailed positive feedback of the professionalism and effectiveness of our staff.

Congratulations

PPO Leslie Jones was selected **Employee of the Month** for January. Leslie's coworkers nominated her because they feel she has a big heart. She is described as the "Big Sister" to all of her kids. She is very involved in the lives of the families she serve. She is described as a sweet person who is always willing to help out.

PPO Yolanda Latimer and **PPO Keelen Robinson** qualified for the upcoming P&P POST Academy.

Welcome

We welcome our newest employee, **PPO Andrew Mickels** to the Baton Rouge OJJ family. PPO Mickels comes to us with experience in the Juvenile Justice System and we are glad to have him.

Kudos

Kudos to **PPO Katina Broden**, **PPO Brandon Woods** and **PPO Stefanie Krygowski** for the Restorative Justice and Martin Luther King Day Program at AMI. The program was coordinated by PPO Broden and included skits and poems about Restorative Justice for the Martin Luther King Holiday. The youth were asked to write skits, poems, essays or raps about the principles, morals and values of Dr. Martin Luther King and how his dream can help them to restore justice and make a positive change in 2011. The program went

well. The youth were receptive, cooperative and passionate about the program. Special thanks to **PPO Naomi Rodney** and **PPO Yolanda Latimer** for their participation in the program.

Recent Training Conducted

SAVRY "booster" training Motivational Interviewing training for Supervisors **PPO Stefanie Krygowski** conducted the Chemical Weapons training for the Lafayette and Baton Rouge offices.

Farewell

Baton Rouge OJJ said farewell to retiree Administrative Assistant **Gail Miller**. Gail served OJJ for 20 years. She began her career in the New Orleans Regional Office, but due to Hurricane Katrina she relocated to the Baton Rouge area and joined the Central Office staff. A few years later she came to work at Baton Rouge OJJ. We wish Gail a happy retirement.



Above, Gail Miller, left, accepts a plaque commemorating her 20 years of service to OJJ, from RM Sue Larisey. Below, Gail displays the cake served at her retirement party.



You're Looking Good

PPO Yolanda Latimer is "looking good" for all of the personal attention and support she gives to the families under her supervision. Yolanda is one of those special people who enjoys making everyone feel special. Recently, she sought help for a family in need from a local church. She contacted the church, with the family's permission, and inquired about services, needs and resources.

The church agreed to not only assist the family, but inquired about adopting the family. The family was so excited they asked Yolanda to attend the church banquet with them as their special guest. At the banquet, the church recognized the family with a certificate, gifts and secured resources.

Yolanda has a unique way of finding "wraparound" services and resources to assist the youth and families we serve. She extends her uniqueness not only to the families but she also gives a special hand whenever needed. We're watching you, PPO Yolanda Latimer, and you are truly making a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Alexandria Regional Office

PPO Jessica Howard is attending the POST Academy in Baton Rouge. **PPO1 Franklin Parrino** began attending the Alexandria Police Academy. We wish them well.

Congratulations

PPO1 Robert Harris and his wife welcomed their baby son **Malcolm Xavier Harris**, born February 13.



But you know the special lift it always brings. You realize that friendship is the world's most precious gift!

Thoughts on Disaster Preparedness

Many experts agree that Japan has fared well in disaster preparedness, but also question whether Americans are as well prepared to handle natural disasters. The United States has experienced an average of 50 natural disasters each year in the last decade. FEMA has documented eight natural disasters this year already, mostly severe winter storms and flooding.

Ask your child's school for a copy of their emergency plan for you to keep at home or work.

Find out how to keep food safe during and after emergency by visiting FoodSafety.gov.

Recommended items for a basic emergency kit:

Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Food: at least a 3 day supply of non-perishables

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio and extra batteries

Flashlight and extra batteries

First aid kit

Personal hygiene items

Whistle to signal for help

Dust mask and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

Paper cups, towels, plates and plastic utensils

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

Hand crank can opener for food

Local maps

Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Prescription medications and glasses

Infant formula and diapers

Pet food and extra water for your pet

Cash or traveler's checks and change

Important family documents: copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Organize documents using the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit developed by Operation Hope and FEMA. Emergency reference materials - a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov.

Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.

Chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – nine parts water to one part bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Treat water with 16 drops of household liquid bleach per gallon of water.

Fire extinguisher

Matches in a waterproof container

Paper and pencil or pen

Books, games or other activities for children



Recipe of the Month

BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations

Chef Ronald J. Sonnier CEC

This year is rolling by fast. I was recently asked to appear on a television program in Baton Rouge called Around Town, and do a cooking demonstration and talk about our program at Bridge City. It was a great honor to be able to share with the public the wonderful things that are going on with my class and share the success stories about some of the students who have gone out and are taking that knowledge of Culinary Arts into the job market and becoming very successful. The station wants to invite me back to talk more about the program, and I will do that again. I have included the recipe for the dish I prepared on the show in this month's Inside Scoop and I hope you enjoy it. I have also included a great coffee cake recipe that we make in class. I know that you will enjoy this simple recipe. **C'EST SI BON! Chef Ron Sonnier**

Coffee Cake

Serves 6 to 8

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup granulated sugar
1 tbl. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ cup shortening
2 small eggs, beaten
½ cup milk

1 tsp. vanilla extract
½ cup packed brown sugar
2 tbs. all-purpose flour
2 tsps. ground cinnamon
½ cup raisins (optional)
2 tbs. butter, melted

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. 2. Combine the flour, granulated sugar, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Cut in the shortening until crumbly. 3. Combine the eggs, milk and vanilla in a small bowl and mix well. Add to the flour mixture and stir just until blended. 4. Combine the brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, cinnamon and raisins in a bowl and mix well. Stir in the melted butter. 5. Spoon 2/3 of the batter into a greased and floured 9-inch cake pan. Sprinkle evenly with the brown sugar mixture. Top with the remaining batter. Bake for 20 minutes.

Glaze: After preparing the coffee cake as directed, combine 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar with 1 to 2 tablespoons lemon juice or water or just enough to reach a drizzling consistency. Drizzle glaze over the cake.

Artichoke Bites

Makes 3 dozen

2 - 6oz jars marinated artichokes, drained and chopped
8 ozs. shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion
6 well beaten eggs

1/4 cup Italian bread crumbs
1/2 tsp. your favorite Creole seasoning
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. oregano
1/2 tsp. Tabasco pepper sauce

Combine all ingredients. Spray mini-muffin tin with nonstick vegetable cooking spray and fill cups 3/4 full. Bake at 350° until light brown, about 20 minutes.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

OJJ Administrative Team

Mary L. Livers, Ph.D, MSW, *Deputy Secretary*
Dr. Girard J. Melancon, *Assistant Secretary*
Connie Percell, *Undersecretary*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Dep. Asst. Secretary, Community Based Services*
Sean C. Hamilton, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities*
Ellyn Toney Peterson, *Chief of Operations*
Karen Stubbs, JD, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training*
Donna Bowie, *Family and Community Services*
Annette Arthur, LCSW, BACS, *Director of Treatment*
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, *Communications Director*
Gwendolyn Jones, *Human Resources Director*
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*
Martha Morgan, JD, *General Counsel*
Kelly D. Smith, MN, APRN, PHCNS-BS, *Health Services Administrator*
Vanessa Tom, *IT Director*

Reporters

Alexandria: Sharon Graham
Baton Rouge: Michelle Thomas
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington
Central Office: Katherine Abrams & Gwen Brinkley
Hammond: Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Daron Brown
Lafayette/ Opelousas: Kevin Broussard
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee
New Orleans: Roxanne Tuircuit
Shreveport: Terri Harber
Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: Janet Pierce
Thibodaux: Allison Lirette

Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training

Karen Stubbs, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*
Jerel Giarrusso, *Communications Director*
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*

Contacts

For more information contact Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov
225.287.7898